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NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE ADMINISTRATORS

December 15, 2008

Steven A. Horsford
1306 West Craig Rd.
Suite E-310
North Las Vegas, NV 89032-0215

Dear Mr. Horsford,

I am writing this representing The Nevada Association of Juvenile Justice Administrator's as their incoming President for 2009. We are fully cognizant that the State of Nevada, her Counties, and local entities are facing very difficult fiscal decisions in the upcoming months. These are evidenced by the Special Session of the Nevada Legislature that just took place. As an Association we believe it is imperative that some of the basic tenants of local juvenile justice practice that are having a direct result of cost savings to the State be recognized and systems developed that will further those savings while assisting county efforts.

The county juvenile justice entities and District Courts are responsible for new commitments to State custody. Therefore, creating the demand for facility placement. Current practice is reducing youth correction placement, one of the most costly aspects of juvenile justice. These practices in the counties are evidenced by:

- State youth correctional facility placements at historic lows
- Counties utilizing Community Corrections Partnership Block Grants to reduce placements at State facilities.
- Counties utilizing funding to youth camps to reduce State placements and improve outcomes.
- The ability for the State to reduce costs at the facilities (Budget projections of \$772,000 in savings in FY09 by closing housing units at Nevada Youth Training center and Caliente Youth Center).
- Reduced State Youth Parole Caseloads.
- Reduced demand for county detention beds.

We wish to continue our efforts that result in these savings and other positive outcomes associated with State Youth Corrections. However, to do so, we will need assistance to maintain and expand these data driven efforts. We are asking for consideration of the following:

Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice
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Submitted by: L. CARTER

- Ongoing dialogue and planning with State entities that insures that approaches remain beneficial to both the State and counties.
- The ability to be an integral part of the 2009 Nevada Legislative Session by outlining our direction and presenting the successes being obtained.
- The maintenance of Community Correction Block Grants and youth camp funding.
- Improved systems for mental health services for youth in the juvenile justice system.
- The State fully considering re-allocation of fund savings to counties to maintain and further the evidenced reductions currently in place.

I look forward to working collaboratively on these efforts in the coming months. I will be excited to display evidenced based results that support the viability and cost saving nature of programs being offered. If you have any question or would like further information, I will be happy to assist. Please feel free to contact me personally on these matters.

Sincerely,



Larry Carter
Assistant Director
Juvenile Justice Services
President of Nevada Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators

LC:sb